

**Amendments to the Specification:**

On page 38, please replace the paragraph beginning on line 14 and ending on line 24 with the following amended paragraph:

The risk index generation process of the present invention may be implemented in any computer system or computer-based controller. One example of such a system is described in greater detail below with reference to FIG. [8]9. More specifically, FIG. [8]9 is an illustration of a computer 58 used for implementing the computer processing in accordance with a computer-implemented embodiment of the present invention. The procedures described above may be presented in terms of program procedures executed on, for example, a computer or network of computers, including local and/or global area networks such as the Internet.

On page 42, please replace the paragraph beginning on line 1 and ending on line 15 with the following amended paragraph:

Although the computer system in Figure [8]9 is illustrated as having a single computer, the system according to one or more embodiments of the invention is optionally suitably equipped with a multitude or combination of processors or storage devices. For example, the computer may be replaced by, or combined with, any suitable processing system operative in accordance with the concepts of embodiments of the present invention, including sophisticated calculators, hand held, laptop/notebook, mini, mainframe and super computers, as well as processing system network combinations of the same. Further, portions of the system may be provided in any appropriate electronic format, including, for example, provided over a communication line as electronic signals, provided on floppy disk, provided on CD Rom, provided on optical disk memory, etc.